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Memorandum

To: ENRP Co-Chairs Sean O'Connor & Barry Weinstein, MD

From: Economic Development Subcommittee Chair Hector Titus

Re: October & November 2003 meetings

Date: December 5, 2003

The Erie-Niagara Regional Partnership's Economic Development Subcommittee met October 15 and November 10, 2003 at Christino's at the Amherst Marriott. Present for the October meeting (a joint meeting with the Government Affairs Subcommittee) was subcommittee member Titus, as well as Government Affairs subcommittee members McMahon and Weinstein. Present for the November meeting (also a joint meeting with the Government Affairs Subcommittee) were subcommittee members Titus and Eldridge, as well as Government Affairs subcommittee members McMahon, Ellis, and Weinstein.

Economic Development Working Group / Regional ED Strategy

A draft strategy is now being produced, with extensive public input to follow. The final version of the strategy will be delivered by the end of the year. The Framework is using this SWOT and strategy as part of the economic development portion of its document. The keynote presentation at the December 5 general meeting will be on the Strategy.

Small Business Development

Follow-up research on small business development continues. Buffalo State, NCCC, Cornell Cooperative Extension, the AFL-CIO, and private business owners have been consulted on the issue. From those surveys, some next steps have been determined. **The ENRP Economic Development Subcommittee requests approval to survey what programs exist to aid small businesses, survey recently opened businesses to assess their needs and how those needs are being met, create better awareness of and access to existing programs, and determine what new programs need to be developed in the long-term.**

Other Topics

Other topics discussed include the economic development “infrastructure” we are attempting to put in place, REDD, and e-permitting.